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Message Text

SECRET

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42
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 074975
O 211252Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4321
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MADRID 0434

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL

REF: (A) STATE 06146
(B) BEIRUT 0318
(C) STATE 9963

1. PRUSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS IN REFS (A) AND (C), DCM CALLED ON DIRGEN FOR MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS, FERRER, JANUARY 20. AFTER EXPLAINING THAT EMBASSY DEMARCHE WAS PART OF A COMMON APPROACH TO A NUMBER OF WEST EUROPEAN CAPITALS, DCM DESCRIBED BACKGROUND OF US CONCERN FOR ARMS SHIPMENTS TO LEBANON AND RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE CONTROL OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS FLOW TO LEBANON, USING TALKING POINTS PROVIDED STATE 06416.

2. SPEAKING ON A PERSONAL BASIS, FERRER SAID HE BELIEVED US OBJECTIVE TO CONTROL ARMS WAS THE CORRECT APPROACH AND FAVORED SPAIN TAKING ACTION IN THIS DIRECTION. HIS INITIAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE MOST FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE WAS SERIES OF NATIONAL UNDERTAKINGS TO CURB SHIPMENTS TO LEBANON. HE ASKED WHAT INFO THE USG HAD ABOUT SPANISH INVOLVEMENT. DCM TOLD HIM WE HAD SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE ESPERANZA FIRM HAD MADE SHIPMENTS AND THAT A FORMER LEBANESE ARMY COLONEL, LAHOUD, MAY BE INVOLVED. FERRER SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT OF THE ESPERANZA FIRM AND
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WOULD CHECK OUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FORMER LEBANESE COLONEL.

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3. FERRER WANTED TO KNOW WHAT ARAB VIEWS WERE. DCM TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE WITH THE SYRIANS BUT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE WHAT REACTION WOULD BE. FERRER SPECULATED THAT ARMS WERE REACHING LEBANON FROM MANY SOURCES.

4. DCM AND DIRGEN AGREED TO TALK AGAIN IN SEVERAL DAYS ONCE FERRER HAD HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK INTO THE BACKGROUND OF SPANISH ARMS SHIPMENTS TO LEBANON AND TO GIVE A MORE OFFICIAL RESPONSE.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: SMALL ARMS, MUNITIONS CONTROLS, ARMS SHIPMENTS
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Draft Date: 21 JAN 1976
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: coburnhl
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